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C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 005395

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR PM/WRA STEPHANIE PICO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/01/2015

TAGS: PREL PTER CO MOPS

SUBJECT: COLOMBIA: SA/LW NEGOTIATIONS ON MARKING AND TRACING

REF: SECSTATE 99866

¶1. (C) Post delivered reftel demarche to MFA Disarmament Coordinator Diana Aguilar June 1. She said Colombia wants uniform standards for marking of weapons and ammunition, but would be flexible regarding a legally binding document.

¶2. (C) Trafficking in small arms and light weapons is a crucial issue for Colombia, said Aguilar, due to the activities of illegal armed groups. She understood poloff's points regarding the marking of ammunition but responded that the GOC would press for marking of ammunition at the OEWG, and noted that Colombia's state arms manufactory, INDUMIL, marks the ammunition it produces. She presumed that with the opposition of the U.S., Russia, China, and Japan a legally binding document (the GOC's preferred outcome) would not be feasible; she thus expressed the hope for a 'politically binding" document. Aguilar stressed the importance of common standards for marking. She pointed to the recent seizure of ammunition of Indonesian origin in a cache of the FARC FTO as an example of the usefulness of marking. Aguilar noted that the EU supports marking of ammunition as do most Latin American nations. Noting that the life span of small arms was around 50 years, she said the GOC favors record keeping for 15 years.

DRUCKER